

Listening to your concerns

# I want to hear from you

## District 86

116th Street

Harcourt Rd.

Holiday Park

Keystone Ave.

25th Street

### District 86 meetings:

I will be hosting three Town Hall meetings in June to hear from you. Please come and share your thoughts. Each meeting will focus on a specific issue, but comments on any issue are welcome.

#### June 12—Property Taxes and other issues 7 to 8:30 p.m.

MLK Multi-Service Center  
40 W. 40th Street

#### June 21—Education and other issues 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Westlane Middle School  
1301 W. 73rd Street

#### June 26—Health Care and other issues 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Clarian North Medical Center  
11700 N. Meridian Street

Contact  
Representative  
David Orentlicher

Please Call:  
232-9818

Write:  
200 W. Washington St  
Indianapolis IN 46204

Email:  
H86@in.gov  
[www.in.gov/H86](http://www.in.gov/H86)



## Representative David Orentlicher

Indiana House of Representatives  
200 W. Washington  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Prst Std  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Indiana House of  
Representatives



### District 86

Statehouse  
200 W. Washington  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
232-9818

Email  
H86@in.gov

Online  
[www.in.gov/H86](http://www.in.gov/H86)

House  
Committee  
Member  
Ways and Means



# Representative David Orentlicher

## Working for You



## Helping Hoosier Families



## Property Tax Relief



# 2006 Session Report

# What has been accomplished

## Additional Property Tax RELIEF

At the start of the 2006 session of the Indiana General Assembly, property tax relief was identified as a priority by members of both parties. Fortunately we were able to provide some relief for homeowners.

This year, about 1.5 million homeowners will receive a one-time increase in the state homestead credit from 20 to 28 percent. This credit

will provide around \$100 million in property tax relief in 2006—many of you have begun to see your property tax bill decrease.



Rep. Orentlicher

In 2007, the state homestead deduction will increase from \$35,000 to \$45,000 for one year. This relief will provide an additional \$127 million for homeowners.

Starting in 2008, the state will gradually phase in a cap on property tax bills at two percent of a home's value. This cap would apply to all classes of property in Indiana, starting in 2010.

While this relief is welcome, it still does not make up for the major increases in local property taxes that were passed on to home and business owners through the biennial state budget approved in 2005 by the Republicans leading our state's government. At the time, that budget increased the burden on local property taxpayers to the tune of an estimated \$850 million.

When we return in January, I will continue my efforts to make our property tax system more equitable and fairer for all citizens.

This session I was pleased to support the following legislative proposals:

### SEX OFFENDERS

A series of bills continue our state's efforts to crack down on sex offenders. The bills ban sex offenders' access to locations where chil-



dren may be present, require sex offenders to wear GPS tracking devices, establish lifetime parole for more serious offenders, keep better track of sex offenders' whereabouts with a new sex offender registry, and make the crime of human trafficking of a minor a felony.

### FIGHTING METH

We have intensified our attack on production of methamphetamine by allowing the destruction of contaminated equipment that was used to produce meth. We also passed provisions that will help law enforcement agencies detect the diversion of legal drugs into the manufacture of methamphetamine.

### IMMIGRATION REFORM

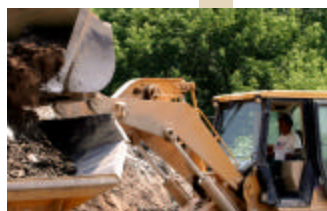
I supported a provision that would have imposed stiff fines on employers who hire workers who are not legal residents of the United States. I also voted against a toothless reform that would have undermined efforts to enact real immigration reform.

## Indiana protects homeowners from Eminent Domain

In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that local governments can use the process of eminent domain to take a person's property in order to hand it over to a private developer.

Many of you expressed your concerns about the ruling, and I began working with other Indiana lawmakers on a plan to protect the property rights of Hoosiers. Months of bipartisan work by a study committee has resulted in legislation that tightens Indiana's eminent domain laws and restricts the ability of most government units to seize private property and transfer it to private entities for development.

The new legislation sets strict standards for property acquisition for private development through eminent domain, and limits its use to only truly blighted and decaying properties. This will prevent developers from being able to have a local government use eminent domain to seize your property simply because they think it might be a good spot for a new strip mall.



# Working toward next session

## Working to improve K-12 education

I have listened to your concerns about education, and I look forward to continuing my efforts to improve our schools.

While much progress has been made in the past several years, we need to do more to improve the quality of our schools. I think it is especially important that we **emphasize reforms with a track record of success**, those that promise the highest returns on our investments.

Accordingly, I have advocated for full-day kindergarten since my first run for office in 2002. The **early years of a child's education are critical years**, and students **achieve at higher levels** if they have **attended a full-day kindergarten program**.

This year, I authored a bill that would have directed surplus revenues from the tax amnesty program to fund full-day kindergarten programs. Although the bill did not pass this year, I was glad to hear after the session that the Governor will be supporting full-day kindergarten legislation next year.

As we move toward full-day kindergarten, we also need to free up more funding for pre-school programs. Several states have pioneered programs to



Rep. Orentlicher reads to children in the Reach Out and Read program.

make pre-kindergarten available to all children in their states. Children who attend good pre-kindergarten programs are less likely to be held back a grade, less likely to need special education and **more likely to graduate high school**. They also **earn more as adults and are less likely to become dependent on welfare or become involved in crime**.

## Recognizing Blue Ribbon Schools



I was privileged this year to author Resolutions honoring two schools attended by children in the 86th District.

St. Thomas Aquinas and Immaculate Heart of Mary Schools were named as Blue Ribbon School recipients. The U.S. Department of Education awards its Blue Ribbon to outstanding schools throughout the country.